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A

LETTER

FROM THE

COMMANDERS

AND

OFFICERS

OF THE

FLEET

Of this *COMMON-WEALTH*,

Unto General *MONCK* in *SCOTLAND*.

Dated the 4th. of *November* 1659.

LONDON,
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A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDERS AND OFFICERS of the FLEET of this *COMMONWEALTH*, un to General *Monck in* SCOTLAND

THE deep ſenſe we have of the duty incumbent on us in this day of *Englands* fears, tryals and temptations, puts us upon this Application to your Honour unto whom not long ſince moſt of us had a more immediate relation, and the experience we had then of your readineſs to receive and grant our juſt deſires, gives us encouragement to beleive thispreſent tender will have the like Reſentment.

As

As private Members of this Common-wealth, we cannot but take notice of, and in ſecret bewail before the Lord, the inteſtine diviſions that are amongſt us at this day; and the dreadfull conſequence likely to enſue thereupon, when duely pondered, do exceedingly afflict, and even break our hearts.

All the force, that the common Enemy, (whil'ſt in his ſtrength) were able to muſter up againſt the good people of this Nation, either at home or frō abroad, could never raiſe ſuch clouds of fears, nor impreſſe thoſe terrors on our hearts, as we now ly under hō the apprehenſion of that evill which attends that diſtance, which is between you, and the Army in *England*, which being manifeſted to us by a declaration lately ſent from *Scotland*, and publiſhed by your Command and reſolutions therein expreſſed, of your vindicaing the late Parliament in oppoſition to the general proceeding of the General Councils of Officers here. We have taken the boldneſſe not only as private Chriſtians, but in our publick capacity as Officers of the Fleet to beſeech you (in the bowels of mercy and compaſſion to this your native Country, and eſpecially to all the Lords people therein, whoſe intereſt we remember hath formerly been precitious to you.) ſeriouſly to conſider.

1. Whether the undertaking you are ingaged in, will not make the hearts of the righteous in theſe Nations ſad, whom the Lord hath not made ſad, and ſtrengthen the hands

hands of the wicked, that he ſhould not return from his wicked way; It being obvious to us where ever we come, that few or none take pleaſure in your proceedings but the Cavaleers, who make their boaſt of you, & place their cõfidence in you, which as it is irkeſome to us to hear, ſo we truſt, and ſhall pray, that the Lord will preſerve you from ſuch a defection, as knowing that never any proſpered that helped them.

2. Whether this ſudden Reſolution againſt your Brethren of the Army on account of their late tranſactions, have not ſome proportion with what the Iſraelites intended againſt the Tribes of *Ruben*, *Gad*, and half tribe of *Manaſſeth*, when they had built an Altar of Memorial on this ſide *Jordan*, and whether the ſame means, (if uſed by you for information of matter of fact as by them) might not through the Lords bleſſing have the ſame effect, and thereby not only bloudſhed be prevented, but the work of Reformation carryed on.

And truly though we ſhall not undertake to juſtifie the Army in their late Action, as being very unable to judge of ſuch important affairs, (not having been of their Council,) yet we hope that in the integrity of their heart, and innocency of their hands, they have done this thing which we apprehend to be the ground of your diſſatisfaction; And on this occaſion we crave leave

leave to remind you, that as you were satisfied with the former dissolution of this very Parliament in the year 1653. and were pleased to continue your command at Sea in that Juncture, (when as the undertaking of the late Lord General *Cromwell* was not so clear to others) and through the blessing of God obtained two signal Victories against the Dutch, even in that *Interregnum*, so we earnestly desire you will hearken unto, and receive satisfaction from, the Officers of the Army, in what they have to offer in this particular.

3. We humbly offer to consideration, whether in your own Observation, it be not apparent, that this Army have in their actings hitherto Cordially designed the advancement of Gods glory, and the promoting and incoragement of godliness and vertue though in persons of different judgements, and perswasions, and whether the cause of God, and his people hath not hereby been preserved, and maintained against all opposition.
4. Whether by such an undertaking (if prosecuted,) the Common Enemy in *Scotland* will not soon recover strength, and become as obnoxious to *England*, as in former times, though of late through your singular prudence industry and care they have been kept under.

And whether the espousing of an interest (distinct from your brethren of the Army in *England* as

as is reported) contrary to those righteous principles, that have hitherto been contended for, will not (instead of purchasing our desired Liberties) render the good people of these Nations to a condition of perfect thraldome, & bondage.

The state of Affaires being such in our weak apprehensions we have taken this freedom to unbosom our hearts to your Honour, and shall earnestly pray they may take some place with you, in order to the begetting of a good Understanding, and agreement between your self, and your brethren here, that both you and they, as also our selves in our several stations by Land and Sea, may with one heart, and consent be found doing the Lords Work in this present Generation, in opposition to all Corrupt interests whatsoever; In attending whereunto, a blessing may be expected from the Lord; In him we are

Nov. 4th. 1659.

Your Honours humble
Servants

Rich. Stayner.	*John Bourne.*	*William Goodwin*
John Lambert.	*Robert Clark*	*Jno. Stocker.*
Tho. Bunn.	*Tho. Sparling.*	*Anth. Earning.*
	Bartho. Ketcher	*Robert Story.*
	Charles Wager.	*Henry Pack.*
	Rich. Newbery.	*Jno. Grove.*
	Henry Fenn.	*Edw. Witheridge.*
	Fran. Allen.	*Rich. Huddock.*
	Nath. Browne.	*Christoph. Myngs.*
	Peter Bowen.	

4 Nov: 1659

Lett. fr: Com. & offic. ffl.

to Mont.